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THE

INTERIM

A REPORT OF INTERIM ACTIVITY . . . MONTANA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL . . . HELENA

MAY 1985

VOL. V, NO. 1

SHELVED WITH
PERIODICALS

This issue begins the fifth volume of the Interim.

The newsletter is designed to provide a centralized source of information on the activities of the Legislature and its agencies. Legislators are the audience we aim to reach. Each member receives a copy of the newsletter. As a courtesy, copies are also sent to other elected officials and department heads of state government. Subscriptions are available to others who ask, but our goal simply is to provide legislative information to the members of the Legislature.

Articles are designed to be short and readable. Sufficient information is provided to indicate what is being done by interim groups and to allow a member to know whether to contact a legislative office for a copy of a full report for additional information.

The newsletter includes a calendar of legislative events for the two months following publication. We find that the members really use these calendars and try to rely upon them. Planning firm meeting dates is difficult, frustrating, and largely out of our control, but the members do appreciate it when it can be done. We will include a disclaimer warning of the ephemeral nature of the announced dates.

The newsletter will be used to inform you of administrative matters of interest, including information on pay, benefits, and insurance.

This is your newsletter. If you have suggestions or comments, please contact Bob Person at the Legislative Council.

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LEGISLATIVE PUBLICATIONS

HISTORY AND FINAL STATUS

The publication detailing the history and final status of every bill considered in the 1985 session will be ready for distribution by mid-June.

INTERIM COMMITTEES

MAILED NOTICE

By now each legislator should have received a mailing that indicated the studies designated for assignment by the Legislative Council at its May 18 meeting. Enclosed was a form letter to be sent to the appointing authority indicating a desire to serve on a committee. If you haven't received this mailing, be sure to contact the Council right away.

PRIORITIES

This year, the Council asked that only the top five priorities for study be listed by each member. To analyze overall priorities, several different weighting schemes were employed. In each case, the top six priorities were the same although the exact order varied slightly. Shown below are the priorities ranked according to the weighting scheme using 5 points for top priority down to 1 for 5th priority. The number of responses in each category is also shown. There were 125 responses.

	RESOLUTION	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	FOURTH	FIFTH
1	HJR 52 Vo-Techs	13	21	18	12	7
2	SJR 31 Lien Laws	17	17	9	7	13
3	HJR 36 Crops & Wild Animals	22	5	9	8	3
4	HJR 57 Ag. Problems	17	11	6	7	7
5	SJR 42 Infrastructure	13	11	7	14	7
6	HJR 54 Job Training	7	6	11	9	12
7	HJR 58 Hiring at Will	8	6	5	6	2
8	HJR 50 Law Enf. Academy	5	6	7	8	4
9	HJR 40 Grazing Fees	1	8	9	8	7
10	HJR 55 Sov. Immunity	5	5	6	8	8
11	SJR 37 Health Boards	2	3	11	7	6
12	HJR 49 Ins. for Unempl.	5	8	2	2	5
13	SJR 32 Ed TV	0	6	5	4	4
14	SJR 33 Building Code	4	3	3	3	4
15	HJR 48 Judicial Selection	0	4	4	2	8
16	HJR 44 Juv. Detention	1	2	2	7	7
17	HJR 45 Fines, Fees, & Forf.	2	0	4	5	5
18	HJR 22 Youth & Alcohol	1	1	3	2	6

COMMITTEES
DESIGNATED

Based on priorities, available resources, and subject matter, the Council designated study-committees as follows:

1. Issues related to Vocational Training
HJR 52 Vo-Tech Governance
HJR 54 Job Training
2. Lien Laws - SJR 31
3. Issues related to Agricultural Problems
HJR 57 Agricultural Problems
HJR 36 Wildlife Damage
4. Infrastructure (public works) - SJR 42
5. Location of the Law Enforcement Academy
HJR 50 (Designated to be studied because
a special appropriation was made in HB
928)

APPOINTMENT
OF MEMBERS

It is anticipated that members will be appointed to serve by the end of June.

BUDGETS

The Legislative Council plans to meet July 12 to allocate budgets to each of the interim study committees funded through the HB 500 appropriation of \$49,000.

SELECT COMMITTEES ON HEALTH INSURANCE FOR
RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES AND INDIAN AFFAIRS

APPOINTMENTS
TO BE MADE

Appointments are also to be made to the Select Committee on Health Insurance for Retired Public Employees created by HB 270 and to the Select Committee on Indian Affairs created by HB 14. The Speaker of the House, Republican House Leader, President of the Senate, and Senate Minority Leader each will appoint two members to the eight-member retiree health insurance committee. The Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate each will appoint two members to the four-member Indian Affairs Committee. Legislators should be sure to inform the appropriate appointing authorities of their interest in service on these select committees.

LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMMITTEE

MEETING

The Legislative Audit Committee will meet June 20 and 21, at 8:30 a.m. in Room 312-3 of the Capitol.

REPORTS

The Committee will review financial-compliance audit reports on Eastern Montana College, Montana Historical Society, Department of Health and Environmental Sciences, Western Montana College, Pine Hills School, School for the Deaf and Blind, Flathead Valley Community College, and others.

REPORTS AVAILABLE

Copies of all reports are available, upon release by the Legislative Audit Committee, from the Office of the Legislative Auditor, Room 135, State Capitol, Helena, MT, 59620, telephone 444-3122.

ADMINISTRATIVE CODE COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN SELECTED

The Administrative Code Committee met on April 3, and elected new officers. Rep. Gary Spaeth was elected Chairman and Sen. H. W. "Swede" Hammond was elected Vice-Chairman. Other members of the committee are Senators Pete Story, Paul Boylan, and Dick Pinsoneault, and Representatives Jim Schultz, Les Kitselman, and Kelly Addy. The Committee considered Issues 21 through 24 of the 1984 MAR and Issues 1 through 4 of the 1985 MAR. The committee also heard a request for an economic impact statement on a Department of Revenue, Liquor Division, rule concerning warehousing of wine and beer.

JUNE MEETING TBA

The Committee plans to meet in June, at a time to be announced, to consider emergency rulemaking activities, to determine interim projects, and to review issues of the MAR.

REVENUE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

APRIL 26 MEETING HELD

The Revenue Oversight Committee got an early start this interim by holding its organizational meeting on April 26, the day following the close of the session. Representative Mel Williams was elected Chairman for the 1985-86 interim, and Senator Bob Brown was elected Vice-Chairman. Breaking somewhat from tradition, the Committee appointed two Revenue Oversight Committee members as liaison to the Coal Tax Oversight Committee. Those two members are Senator Tom Towe, who has been the Revenue Oversight Committee liaison since the Committee has had a liaison, and Representative Gerry Devlin, who is serving his first interim on Revenue Oversight.

JUNE 7 DATE SET

The Committee set the second meeting of the interim for 9:00 a.m., June 7, in Room 104 of the

Capitol. The tentative agenda calls for review and adoption of a study outline for Senate Joint Resolution 14, the adoption of a meeting schedule for the interim, review of a Department of Revenue rule regarding an issue associated with the distribution of beer, and the Department's regular reports on litigation, reappraisal, and related matters.

LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE

MEETING
JUNE 21

The Legislative Finance Committee will meet on June 21 in Room 104 of the Capitol. The two major agenda items are: (1) the 1987 Biennium Appropriations Report; and (2) the staff interim work plan. Legislators not at the meeting will be mailed an appropriation report in late June.

Near the end of the session, legislators were surveyed to determine what fiscal concerns had the highest priority. The responses given will influence how the Legislative Finance Committee sets the interim work plan. If you did not complete the survey or have thought of other fiscal concerns, please send them to the Legislative Fiscal Analyst's office promptly and they will be included as part of the potential work areas.

VEHICLE FEE
FISCAL EFFECT

In Senate Bill 142, the inflation adjustment on vehicle fees was stricken. The Code Commissioner indicates that the new 61-3-533, MCA, will be codified with the inflation adjustment removed as indicated in Senate Bill 142. A vehicle less than four years of age and under 2,850 pounds will be assessed a fee of \$83, of which \$7 will be used for district courts as per Senate Bill 142, \$6 will be used for the local government block grant as per House Bill 870, and \$70 will be distributed as vehicle fees are currently. Had the inflation adjustment remained in effect, the \$70 would have been \$82 in fiscal 1986 and \$86 in 1987. The total fiscal impact of excluding the inflationary adjustment determined by LFA staff calculation is approximately \$9.5 million in the biennium, with \$1.9 million being absorbed in the foundation program and \$7.6 million affecting local governments.

COMMITTEE ON INTERSTATE (AND INTERNATIONAL)
COOPERATION

On May 18, the Legislative Council appointed members to NCSL, CSG, and the Montana-Western Canadian Provinces Boundary Advisory Committee. The Council will be soliciting interest among legislators to be designated as a delegate to the Five-State Conference, which is explained below.

NCSL

NCSL APPOINTMENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Agriculture and Food Policy

Sen. Allen Kolstad, Delegate
Rep. Gay Holliday, Alternate

Taxation, Trade and Economic Development

Sen. Bill Norman, Delegate
Sen. Pat Regan, Alternate

Natural Resources and Environment

Rep. Hal Harper, Delegate
Sen. George McCallum, Alternate

Education and Labor

Sen. John D. Lynch, Delegate
Rep. William Menahan, Alternate

Commerce, Labor and Economic Development

Sen. M. K. Daniels, Delegate
Rep. Les Kitselman, Alternate

Federal Budget

Rep. John Vincent, Delegate
Sen. Judy Jacobson, Alternate

Fiscal Affairs and Oversight

Sen. Paul F. Boylan, Delegate
Rep. Dan Harrington, Alternate
Judy Rippingale, Fiscal Analyst, Staff Delegate

Transportation and Communication

Sen. Pat M. Goodover, Delegate
Rep. Kerry Keyser, Alternate

Health and Human Services

Sen. Stan Stephens, Delegate
Rep. Calvin Winslow, Alternate

Legislative Organization and Management

Diana S. Dowling, Executive Director,
Legislative Council, Staff Delegate

CSG

CSG APPOINTMENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Executive Committee

Rep. Robert L. Marks, Delegate

Rep. Rex Manuel, Alternate

Legislative Service Agency/Research Directors

Advisory Committee

Diana S. Dowling, Council Executive Director

Robert B. Person, Research Director

Water Policy

Rep. Rex Manuel, Delegate

Sen. Jack Galt, Delegate

Sen. Larry Stimatz, Alternate

Environment and Hazardous Materials

Rep. Earl C. Lory, Delegate

Sen. Chet Blaylock, Alternate

Revenue and Taxation

Rep. Jack Ramirez, Delegate

Sen. James Shaw, Alternate

Economic Development and International Trade

Rep. Norm Wallin, Delegate

Sen. Gary Alkestad, Alternate

Land and Energy

Rep. Tom Asay, Delegate

Sen. Jack Haffey, Delegate

Rep. Mike Kadas, Alternate

Health and Education

Rep. Ralph Eudaily, Delegate

Sen. Bob Brown, Alternate

CSG Governing Board

Rep. Robert L. Marks, Delegate

MONTANA-WESTERN CANADIAN PROVINCE BOUNDARY

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Council appointed the following:

Rep. Dennis Iverson

Sen. Swede Hammond

Rep. Mary Ellen Connelly

Sen. Dick Manning

FIVE-STATE
CONFERENCE

The Five-State Conference has been scheduled October 2-4 in Lincoln, Nebraska. The preliminary agenda includes discussions on state ownership of water rights, problems facing agriculture today,

control and regulation of financial institutions, trends in economic development within the states, and the future of education. The budget will support appointment of eight delegates to this conference. If you would be interested in attending, please contact the Legislative Council office or a Council member.

*ALL MEETINGS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

LEGISLATIVE INTERIM CALENDAR
JUNE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7 Rev. Oversight Comm. 9am - rm. 104	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 FLAG DAY	15
16 FATHER'S DAY	17	18	19	20 Leg. Audit Comm. 8:30am-rm. 312	21 Leg. Finance Comm. 9am - rm. 104 Leg. Audit Comm. rm. 312	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

*ALL MEETINGS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

LEGISLATIVE INTERIM CALENDAR

JULY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	1										
7	8	9	10	11	12 Leg. Council 10am-rm.132	13					
14	15	16	17	18	19 Capt. Bldg.& Planning rm.108-10am	20					
21	22	23	24	25	26	27					
28	29	30	31								

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